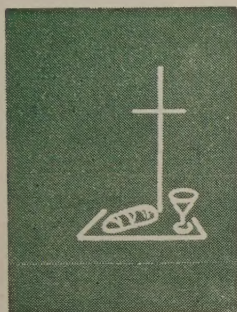


CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Asking Our Faith Seriously

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION is simply asking our Christian faith seriously by relating it to the problems of our society. It means asking ourselves, What does the Gospel require of us in our daily work, in the community, in national and international affairs?

It may begin very close to home, as we consider how the community takes care of its children and youth. Have we provided adequate schools? Wholehearted recreation? Opportunities for work and useful activity? How is our love of neighbor expressed in relation to the aging, the alcoholic, the handicapped, the mentally ill?



Christian social action also means looking at the grave problems which face the nation and the world at large. We expect Christian to be a good citizen. But good citizens are not simply those who do not break laws that are established for the good of all; they are willing to take responsibility for studying the problems which confront us and for putting into effect decisions which are beneficial to all. Farm policy, industrial relations, civil rights legislation, international economic assistance, the control and reduction of armaments—these are our business because God's justice and man's well-being are bound up in them.

Christian social action is an essential part of the Church's Mission: to do Christ's work in the world—"that in everything he might be pre-eminent."

This issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, with its poster-display center, is planned for wide promotional distribution in the churches. We are indebted to the Washington Congregational Conference for ideas and pictures first used in the conference paper, *The Congregational Way*, and very freely adapted by us.

Additional copies may be ordered at \$5 per hundred.

IN YOUR CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST has designated February as the month in which our congregations are encouraged to pay special attention to Christian social action. There are many ways in which this responsibility is being interpreted to our members and concern is being transformed into action.

Much is being done by way of preaching and the pastor's ministry of worship. Christian education contributes measurably through a curriculum that deals with the full range of our heritage and Christian responsibility. The programs prepared for use by Women's Guild and Women's Fellowship, Laymen's Fellowship and Churchmen's Brotherhood, Youth Fellowship and Pilgrim Fellowship incorporate discussions of social issues and encourage active citizenship. Churches are becoming accustomed to setting up special study groups, and many such will use the Case-book and Packet prepared for the Interdenominational Emphasis on "Christian Responsibility for Freedom." Where a church has a social action committee—and what church with serious

purpose does not have one?—these groups can coordinate their interests and cooperate in planning for greater effectiveness. What others have done can, and should, be done in your church, too.

Does someone ask, On what shall we work? Where shall we begin? We suggest a careful look at the range of objectives highlighted on the inside pages of this special edition of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. These have been "culled" from the larger assortment of goals for which the General Synod asks our churches and members to work and pray. Perhaps these pages may be displayed as a poster on your bulletin board to remind young and old of the work that waits to be done.

February offers us many "built in" incentives. Its national holidays make it impossible to disregard the standing challenges of citizenship, civil rights, justice, and brotherhood. And as Lent begins we are driven to consider both the gracious gift of God who stands at the heart of our faith and His claim to our total commitment.



CHRISTIAN

"The Gospel is the Good News of what God has done in human history, grappled with the principalities and powers, his love and gracious purpose toward all men . . . The man relationships."



IN THE WORLD OF NATIONS

Support of the United Nations

Advancement of Human Rights

Control and Reduction of all Armaments—

Nuclear, Chemical, Bacteriological,

Conventional

Greater Use of our Resources for International Economic
Development

Reciprocal Trade Policies

Negotiation to Relieve International Tensions

Extension of the World-Wide Christian Community

IN RACE RELATIONS

Protection of Political Rights of all Citizens

Completion of Desegregation in Education and in Public Services

Elimination of Discrimination in Housing

A Church that Welcomes Members from Every Social and Cultural Group



To these tasks we dedicate
us to seek justice for all
only in word but in deed.

IAL ACTION

ne world. In Jesus Christ God entered the arena of
on a victory over those powers, and made manifest
ds to God's saving act by seeking His will in all hu-

n Action in Society,—Adopted by the General Synod of the
of Christ, July 8, 1959.

IN AMERICAN CULTURE

Acceptance of Christian Responsibility in Labor,

Management and Other Vocations

Conservation and Development of Natural Re-

sources for the Benefit of All



Agricultural Policies that Protect both Farmer and Public

Support and Expansion of Health Programs and Other Public

Services

Increased Educational Opportunities for All

Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Families

Social Services for the Aging, the Mentally Ill, and Others with

Special Needs

IN POLITICAL LIFE

Support of Effective, Representative, Responsible Government

Participation of Christians as Voters, Party Workers, Candidates, Holders of Public Office

Critical Evaluation of Policies, Candidates, and Parties

Study and Action on CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR FREEDOM.



ame of God who calls
love our neighbor not
vidence and our trust.

HERE TO HELP YOU

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION is the business of the *whole* church—of *every* church. It must come alive locally, in the congregation and in the community. Otherwise the best plans and programs fall short of their objective.

However, no local church needs to work alone, in the dark, as if no one else cared. There are aids all around—the local or state council of churches, the synod or state conference committee on Christian social action, as well as many community groups dedicated to specific purposes shared by the church.

Then there is the Council for Christian Social Action. Both the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church were sufficiently convinced of the Church's mission in society that they established social action agencies. These have now combined their programs and resources in the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ.

The CCSA looks in two directions. On the one hand, it exists to express its considered views on important issues, both to the church and to the public. On the other hand, it exists to serve the churches of the denomination in order that they may more confidently and effectively carry out their share of the church's mission to society. It is here to help you. How does it do this?

1. *Through Publications.* SOCIAL ACTION (a monthly magazine, \$2 per year), CHRISTIAN

Officers of the Council for Christian Social Action



Hugo W. Thompson
Chairman



Henry C. Koch
Vice-Chairman



Mrs. T. T. Dixon
Secretary



Harold C. Kropf
Treasurer

COMMUNITY (sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen), the *Manual for Christian Social Action*, and many other materials (listed in a free order list entitled *Current and Available*) offer information, analysis, program and action suggestions for individuals, groups and churches in many fields of interest.

2. *Through Statements and Recommendations.* On selected issues the Council formulates what it believes to be the wisest policies calculated to achieve sound objectives. These formulations are printed in publications of the Council and of the Church, released to the press, and sometimes communicated to appropriate congressional committees or government officials. Such statements and recommendations are useful in stimulating further thought and action by groups that use them.

3. *Through Institutes, Seminars, and Study Tours.* Each year hundreds of pastors and lay leaders receive training for social action in local church, conference, or lay organizations as they take part in summer institutes, seminars in Washington and at the United Nations, or guided study tours. Your church, too, can benefit from these opportunities.

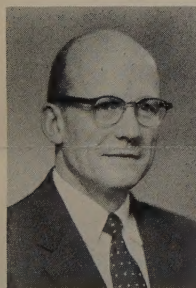
4. *Through Staff Services.* Each year mem-

bers of the CCSA staff spend considerable periods of time as resource leaders in workshops sponsored by conference and synod committees and in visiting churches to speak, preach or consult with local leaders.

5. *Through Special Projects.* The Council performs many varied services for the church. Its members and staff serve on various departments of the National Council of Churches, or on the boards of specialized agencies. The Council has an Observer at the United Nations. It maintains a roster of conscientious objectors and counsels with them concerning their rights and obligations. Occasionally it is called upon to secure information and make recommendations for other agencies of the church. At present it is supporting a three-year pilot program to promote fair housing practices in Minneapolis, in the hope that this will yield information which will be helpful in other communities.

These services are made possible by the churches' regular apportionment giving, supplemented by special gifts from individuals and organizations such as the Women's Guild and the Women's Fellowship. Congregational Christians have an excellent tradition of making special contributions to the Council for Social Action during the Month of Emphasis. There is no objection if Evangelical and Reformed groups wish to do the same for the Commission on Christian Social Action! We encourage such gifts. And when you have given, don't forget to make full use of the resources your gifts help to supply.

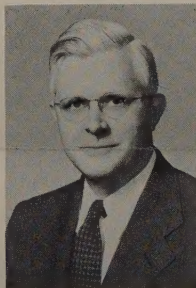
Staff of the Council



Ray Gibbons
Director



Huber F. Klemme
Associate Director



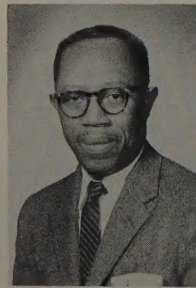
F. Nelsen Schlegel
Field Secretary



Herman F. Reissig
Intern'l Relations



Galen R. Weaver
Racial and Cultural Relations



Chester L. Marcus



Elizabeth Johns
Publications



Lewis I. Maddocks
Washington (July '61)

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FEBRUARY, 1961

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Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.